THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. 9 Express train (single) were introduced in Eastern Railway.

(c) and (d) Amenities have been provided on the station as per norms. However, during Mela period these facilities are suitably augmented. Moreover, Railway Officers/Staff are posted to attend to the problems of the pilgrims on the spot. Additional booking counters are opened and additional staff is also posted during such periods.

(e) and (f) For the rail journey of the pilgrims attending Shravan Mela at Baidyanathdham Railways have extended the run of 5JK/6JK Kiul-Jamalpur Passenger upto Sultanganj and also two daily special trains are being run-one between Jasidih and Patna and another between Jasidih and Barauni during 21.7.97 to 20.8.97. Reservation quotas have been given by the trains stopping at Jasidih station.

Expenditure Incurred in Mining Sector

3618. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Ministry/Department in the mining sector during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of achievements made in this field and mines explored alongwith the value minerals extracted therefrom during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes being implemented during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Plan Expenditure in mining sector by Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of mines, the two subordinate organisations of the Ministry of Mines during the last two years was as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	GSI	IBM
1995-96	56.50	7.47
1996-97	82.00	8.20

The Ministry of Mines had also released Rs. 8.00 crores in 1995-96 and Rs. 7.00 crores in 1996-97 to Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. For doing promotional work in drilling and mining.

(b) During 1995-96, GSI covered 4732 Sq. kms. through ground surveys, 46,878 sq. kms. of marine surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zone and 86,518.06 metres of drilling for mineral exploration. GSI has established during 1995-96 additional reserves of 945 million tonnes of coal, 250 million tonnes of lignite, 0.43 million tonnes with 3.93% copper-lead-zinc in Hesathu Belbathgan belt, Bihar, 8.7 million tonnes of manganese ore in Bonai Keonjhar belt of Orissa and 2.04 million tonnes of gold ore in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. In 1996-97, 23,600 Sq. kms. of marine survey in the Exclusive Economic Zone, Airborne multi-sensor survey of 4383 Lkm. (covering 4006 Sq. kms.), 1070.50 Sq. kms of large scale mapping, 10.695 Sq. kms. of detailed mapping and 41,896.06 metres of drilling were carried out by GSI. GSI has established additional 381 million tonnes of coal reserves, 1.45 million tonnes with 6.93% Lead+Zinc in Amtiyargard Block, Dehradun Distt., U.P., 0.7 million tonne of ore with 1.2% copper in Garara Block, Bhandara Distt., Maharashtra and 2.6 million tonnes of ore with 0.116% molybdenum in Velampati South Block of Harur Uttarangarai belt of Tamil Nadu.

During the year 1995-96, the Indian Bureau of Mines had conducted 2655 inspections of mines, approved 641 mining plans and 82 mining schemes and conducted 71 ore dressing investigations with 47,674 chemical analysis and 2358 mineralogical examinations. In the year 1996-97, IBM had conducted 2668 inspection of mines, approved 610 mining plans and 147 mining schemes and undertaken 71 Ore Dressing investigations, with 35,472 chemical analysis and 2435 mineralogical examinations.

During the last two years MECL had undertaken 11 projects in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan establishing 69.99 million tonnes of copper ore and 5.61 million tonnes of gold ore.

(c) Exploration and mining is a continuous process. However, during 1997-98, GSI has a plan to undertake systematic geological mapping of 5800 Sq. kms. and 7200 Sq. kms. of specialised Thematic Mapping in the country besides large scale mapping of 3600 Sq. kms., detailed mapping of 53 Sq. kms. and drilling of 1,47,000 metres for coal, lignite and other minerals in the country. The I.B.M. has planned to inspect 2650 mines, and undertake 70 ore dressing investigations with 50,000 determination of radicals and 2300 mineralogical examination for benefication of low grade ores, in 1997-98. M.E.C.L. has also proposed to continue their drilling and mining programmes for coal, lignite, gold, copper, zinc-lead and molybdenum etc. during 1997-98.

[English]

Setting up of Power Generating Station in U.P.

3619. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal from US based company Enron to set up a power generating station in Uttar Pradesh was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location, cost, capacity share equity etc. of the proposed power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

STD/ISD Booths In Kerala

3620. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Kerala District-wise;

(b) whether there is any norms laid down in allotting booths, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the mushrooming for booths cames difficulties and hardships; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the SSA-wise information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) STD PCOs are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee, constituted one for each SSA, consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/ High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons :

1. Handicapped including blind persons
2. SC/ST Applicants
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) and (d) Sir, while allotting new STD PCOs, it is ensured that average monthly earnings of the franchisees do not fall below Rs. 2000/-

Statement

No. of STD PCOs working in Kerala as on 30.6.97

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum	971
2.	Quilon	646
3.	Pathanamthitta	699
4.	Alappuzha	504
5.	Kottayam	780
6.	Erankulam	2512
7.	Trichur	1092
8.	Palakkad	675
9.	Calicut	1700
10.	Kannur	857
	Total	10436

Fixation Limit for IPFI in Power Sector

3621. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed limit of 40% of Indian Public Finance Institutes in power sector based on indigenous equipments;

(b) if so, whether any representations from any State Government have been received for relaxation of the limit and to exclude funding from Indian commercial banks while making aggregate exposure of IPFI within the permissible limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The private power policy *inter alia* stipulates that an amount not exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources. The Government of Gujarat had requested that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from this limit. This request is under consideration.

Provision of Electricity

3622. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide electricity to the rural far flung hilly tribal and remote areas; and

(b) If so, the details of the special programmes involved in this regard?